

Congressman Reid of New York has introduced a bill numbered HR 5324 which is of interest to employees of Radio Free Europe. It permits, in Section 17, an employee of a bona fide American educational or other nonprofit organization to file for United States citizenship without regard to normal requirements of residence in the United States.

In order to qualify for application of this section, an alien admitted for permanent residence must meet the following requirements:

- (1) He must be regularly stationed abroad with an American organization advancing U. S. interests.
- (2) He must be continuously so employed for five years.
- (3) He must declare his intention to reside in the U. S. immediately upon termination of such employment.

The proposed legislation does not apply to dependents and does not abolish the requirement of admission for permanent residence prior to filing for naturalization. Since the bill does not provide for dependents, the following comments summarize their residence requirements for naturalization.

#### Spouse of Employees

The normal requirements for naturalization prior to filing are (1) continuous residence in the U. S. for five years, (2) physical presence for half that time, and (3) residence in the state of filing for six months. In addition, it is necessary to reside in the U. S. from the time the petition is filed until naturalization is granted.

A spouse whose husband or wife has been a U. S. citizen during the three years prior to filing need meet only the following residence requirements: (1) he or she must have been married to the citizen spouse during the entire three years, (2) three years' continuous U. S. residence, (3) physical presence in the U. S. during half that time, and (4) six months' residence during half that time.

#### Minor Children

Minor children born in the United States are citizens thereof without regard to citizenship of their parents.

A second group of citizens by birth are foreign-born children both of whose parents are U.S. citizens and one of whom had a residence in the United States prior to the birth.

A third such group are foreign-born children of one U.S. citizen parent and one U.S. national parent. A U.S. national is any person owing permanent allegiance to the United States, although not a citizen thereof.

A final group of citizens-by-birth are foreign born children, one of whose parents is a citizen and the other an alien. The citizen parent must have been physically present in the U.S. for ten years, during five of which he or she was over the age of fourteen. This type of citizenship must be perfected by the child's residence in the U.S. for specified periods between age fourteen and twenty-eight.

Automatic naturalization is provided for the following children who have been admitted for permanent residence:

- (1) Those with one citizen parent if at the time the alien parent is naturalized, the child is under sixteen.
- (2) Children under sixteen when both parents, or the parent with sole legal custody is naturalized.

Lastly, naturalization of a child by petition to court may be obtained by any parent who is a citizen if the child is otherwise qualified. A "child" is any unmarried person under twenty-one years who is legitimate, a step-child, or a child legally legitimated. Adopted children are subject to special rules.

To all employees of the American nonprofit corporation, the Reid bill, HR 5324, should prove a boon if passed.

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